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Docket No.: 199314US-3 PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Yoshiaki KUMAMOTO et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: (UNKNOWN)
SERIAL NO: 09/673,667 : EXAMINER: (UNKNOWN)
FILED: NOVEMBER 7, 2000 :
FOR: MOLDED ARTICLE :

THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph of the specification as shown on page 4 of this amendment. A complete set of the paragraphs of the specification that have been amended are shown in clean form below.

Page 5, lines 20-28, please replace the paragraph, with following:

C' In more detail, it is preferred for the pulp fibers to have an average length of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, particularly 0.9 to 1.8 mm, especially 1.0 to 1.5 mm. If the average fiber length is less than 0.8 mm, cracks tend to develop on the surface of the molded article during papermaking or drying, or the molded article tends to have poor mechanical properties such as impact strength. If the average fiber length exceeds 2.0 mm, the pulp deposited body formed by papermaking tends to have unevenness of thickness only to provide a molded article with poor surface smoothness. The term "average fiber length" as used herein is a value obtained